

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 130830Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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GENEVA FOR MTN, GATT AND TSB DELS

SYDNEY ALSO PASS TRADE CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN TRADE POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 055008 (NOTAL); (B) CANBERRA 1572 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE AND E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON SPECIAL MINISTER
OF STATE (AND CURRENTLY ACTING MIN OF OVERSEAS
TRADE) LIONEL BOWEN IN SYDNEY OFFICE MARCH 13 TO EXPRESS
U.S. CONCERN OVER RECENT SERIES GOA IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.
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BOWEN JOINED BY FOGARTY, FIRST ASST. SECRETARY,, DEPT.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

2. CHARGE OUTLINED U.S. VIEW DRAWING ON POINTS REF (A) AND HANDED BOWEN AIDE-MEMOIRE (COPIES BEING POUCHED ALL ADDRESSEES) SUMMARIZING PRESENTATION.

3. BOWEN IN RESPONSE AND IN EXTENDED ENSUING DISCUSSION ESSENTIALLY AFFIRMED (1) RECENT GOA MEASURES EMERGENCY STEPS TO MEET UNPRECEDENTED IMPORT SURGES AND SHORT-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT CRISES; (2) MEASURES WILL BE TEMPORARY (I.E. UNTIL INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION'S STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONG-TERM PROTECTION NEED ARE COMPLETED AND ACTED ON BY GOA); (3) GOA STILL ADHERES TO GOAL OF INDUSTRY RE-STRUCTURING AS ALTERNATIVE TO EXCESSIVE INDUSTRIAL PROTECTION; (4) GOA AWARE OF AND CONCERNED BY RISK THESE MEASURES MAY BE MISINTERPRETED AS BASIC SHIFT IN TRADE POLICY; (5) GOA IS SATISFIED THAT ITS ACTION ACCORD FULLY WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

4. BOWEN PROMISED U.S. REPRESENTATION WOULD PROMPTLY BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTRE FOR OVERSEAS TRADE. HE ALSO STATED U.S. REPRESENTATION WOULD BE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING CABINET TO CONTINUE ITS PAST CAREFUL WEIGHING OF SUCH MEASURES IN CONTEXT OF THEIR POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT.

5. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST INCLUDE (1) BOWEN EMPHASIS ON TEXTILE CASE, IN WHICH GOA CONSIDERS IT WAS MOVING TO CATCH UP WITH SYSTEM OF RESTRAINTS ALREADY BENEFITTING USG; (2) GOA CONTENTION OECD DATA SHOW AUSTRALIA HAD WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORT SURGE IN 1973 AND 1974; (3) GOA STILL CONTINUING LONG-TERM IAC TARIFF REVIEW, WHICH PRODUCED REDUCTIONS IN 237 DUTY RATES SINCE JAN. 1, 1973 (ADDITIONAL TO UNILATERAL JULY 1973 25 PCT. GENERAL DUTY REDUCTION).

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WELCOME MINISTER'S SINCERE ASSURANCE OF TEMPORARY STATUS RECENT MEASURES, AND GOA'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO LIBERAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL RE-STRUCTURING, BUT WE ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT ABILITY OF GOA TO STEM TIDE OF NEW PROTECTION DEMAND ENCOURAGED BY RECENT MEASURES, MUCH LESS ITS ABILITY TO AVOID PROLONGATION PRESENT MEASURES. VALUE OF OUR REPRESENTATION WILL PROBABLY LIE MOSTLY IN EFFECT ON GOA DECISION RE CASES TILL IN PIPELINE, WHERE WE BELIEVE U.S. APPROACH MAY STRENGTHEN PRIMIN AND OTHER GOA ELEMENTS SEEKING MORE MODERATE LINE FOR FUTURE. BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GOA FEEL CONTINUED PRESSURE IN OECD AND GATT.

7 SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING FOGARTY INDICATED GOA
RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AFTER AIDE-MEMOIRE STUDIED.
EMBASSY WILL FORWARD UPON RECEIPT.
HARROP

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